

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1 of the specification, under the title, please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application claims the benefit of and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/382,242, filed August 24, 1999, now pending; which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/602,359, filed February 16, 1996, now issued U.S. Patent 5,954,430, and is a continuation of PCT/US97/02039, filed February 11, 1997, published in English on August 21, 1997 as WO 97/30160, all which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety; and this application is also a continuation of PCT/US97/02039, filed February 11, 1997, published in English on August 21, 1997 as WO 97/30160.

On page 11 of the specification, under the title, please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] For example, hybridization under high stringency conditions could occur in about 50% formamide at about 37°C to 42°C. Hybridization could occur under reduced stringency conditions in about 35% to 25% formamide at about 30°C to 35°C. In particular, hybridization could occur under high stringency conditions at 42°C in 50% formamide, 5X SSPE, 0.3% SDS, and 200 ng/ml [[n/ml]] sheared and denatured salmon sperm DNA. Hybridization could occur under reduced stringency conditions as described above, but in 35% formamide at a reduced temperature of 35°C. The temperature range corresponding to a particular level of stringency can be further narrowed by calculating the purine to pyrimidine ratio of the nucleic acid of interest and adjusting the temperature accordingly. Variations on the above ranges and conditions are well known in the art.